

March 7, 2001

takes a small step in helping seniors remain in their homes despite rising property taxes. A step, I hope, we can take this year.

TRIBUTE TO SHONDA RIGGINS OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year. Shonda Riggins, a guest service representative at the Hampton Inn located at 48th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has displayed over a ten year period how deserving she is of this award. Ms. Riggins is an astute employee who is known for her dependability, generosity, and great southern hospitality. The type of service that Ms. Riggins provides to the guest of the Hampton Inn goes beyond the call of duty. She has proven herself to be an asset to the tourist industry and indispensable to the Hampton Inn.

Examples of Ms. Riggins exemplified service include her handwritten personal postcards to every guest, top-scoring in professional and friendly phone-skills, and a perfect attendance that is also at the top of the charts. Her appearance is always impeccable and she wears, with pride, all of her service pins and buttons. Ms. Riggins is a team player who has shown that she is willing to help in all aspects at any time. This includes such tasks as assisting during hurricane seasons, covering shifts of co-workers, and always being able to keep her cool so that she can help out in whatever way possible.

Over the years Ms. Riggins has received numerous awards and recognition for her continuing great service to the Hampton Inn. This award, though, is an esteemed honor that Ms. Riggins is extremely deserving of. I would like to thank her for her continuing hospitality and support to the tourism industry that is so important to Myrtle Beach. As a thriving part of South Carolina, Ms. Riggins has proven herself to be indispensable to the true meaning of southern hospitality. As the Representative of the First District of South Carolina, I must say that this type of dedication and hard work is refreshing and appreciated to the upmost degree.

THE SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Science Teacher Scholarships for Scientists and Engineers Act. The bill is cosponsored by my colleague Mr. WU, and I appreciate his support.

The bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bach-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

elors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers.

From a series of Science Committee hearings last year about the state of science and math education, and from talking to constituents, students, and educators at home, it has become clear to me that we need to improve science and math education in this country.

In particular, I've come to understand that poor student performance in science and math has much to do with the fact that teachers often have little or no training in the disciplines they are teaching. While the importance of teacher expertise in determining student achievement is widely acknowledged, it is also the case that significant numbers of K-12 students are being taught science and math by unqualified teachers.

Not only do we need to ensure a high quality of science and math education for our students, but we also need to ensure there is sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them. The bill I am introducing today would begin to address the shortage of qualified science and math teachers by providing an incentive for individuals with the content knowledge to try teaching as a career.

Most students emerge from college with a heavy debt load—and studies have shown that average debt has tended upward, since college tuition costs have been increasing faster than inflation. So scholarships would be particularly beneficial for those considering entering the teaching field where starting salaries are relatively low.

Mr. Speaker, to keep economic growth strong in the long-term, we need continued innovation. But innovation doesn't happen by itself—it requires a steady flow of scientists and engineers. My bill can begin to help provide this steady flow and ensure that our future workforce will be prepared to succeed in our increasingly technologically based world. With estimates of 240,000 new science and math elementary and secondary teachers needed over the next decade, we must work to provide the incentives now to bring these teachers into our schools.

For the information of our colleagues I am submitting a summary of the bill.

SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR  
SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures.

The purpose: To ensure not only high quality of science and math education but also a sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them.

BACKGROUND

The Science Committee held a series of hearings in the 106th Congress on various aspects of math and science education. From these hearings it became clear that student performance in these areas is weak and that no single factor is the key to improving stu-

3125

dent performance. But the testimony did suggest that a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for improved student performance is teachers with both good content knowledge and pedagogical skills. Current problems in the realm of math and science teaching are difficulties in attracting and retaining math and science teachers and deficiencies in the training of new teachers and in professional development activities for existing teachers.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Authorization: The bill would authorize the director of the National Science Foundation to make awards to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures. The bill would authorize \$20 million to be appropriated to NSF for each of the fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education offering bachelors degrees in science, math, and engineering and coursework toward teacher certification are eligible to apply for awards under the program. Individuals provided scholarships shall be undergraduate students majoring in science, math, or engineering who are within one academic year of completion of degree requirements or graduates of bachelors or advanced degree programs in science, math, or engineering.

Requirements for Application: Each scholarship application would include a plan specifying the course of study that would allow the applicant to fulfill the academic requirements for obtaining a teaching certification during the scholarship period.

Work Requirement: As a condition of acceptance of a scholarship under this Act, a recipient would agree to work as a science teacher for a minimum of two years following certification as such a teacher or to repay the amount of the scholarship to NSF.

TRIBUTE TO HIS BEATITUDE MAR  
NASRALLAH BOUTROS CARDINAL  
SFEIR, MARONITE PATRIARCH  
OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today at a Congressional Luncheon hosted by myself and Rep. RAY LAHOOD, and attended by many Members of the House, we had the privilege of hearing remarks made by His Beatitude Mar Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. This is the Patriarch's first visit to the United States since 1988, and he is here on the occasion of the elevation of the first American born Maronite Bishop Ralph Shaheen.

While in the United States, the Patriarch expressed his vision of peace for Lebanon and the Middle East Region.

Lebanon, the homeland of my grandfathers and its people, cherish the same values of democracy, respect for human rights, independence and sovereignty cherished by the people of America. That is why the Patriarch, the

church and the people and government of Lebanon have supported the Middle East peace talks of the past, and hope for a resumption of those talks in the near future.

Mr. Speaker I submit the words of His Beatitude, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and All the East be entered in the RECORD, so that my colleagues will be enabled to hear his urgent plea on behalf of a continued alliance between the United States and Lebanon.

I am honored to be here among members of the legislative body which makes laws for the United States and which have an influence on the whole world. I thank you for all the support you have given and are giving to Lebanon and its people. I wish to speak about Lebanon, a country of 10,000 square kilometers and 4 million people, but a country whose historical roots extend more than 6,000 years. It is the country where the alphabet was invented by the Phoenicians, who spread its knowledge not by war, but through trade and human interaction.

Lebanon is a peace loving country which wants to live in peace with all its neighboring countries, including Syria and Israel. As a matter of fact, the Maronite Church and the Lebanese people cherish the same values of democracy, respect for human rights, independence and sovereignty cherished by the American people. The entry of the Syrian troops into Lebanon in 1976 was done without the request or permission of anyone, as stated by former President Hafez al-Assad in his speech of July 20, 1976. This was also noted by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in his book. From that time Syria has established its hegemony over Lebanon.

While we have always advocated good relations between Syria and Lebanon, true international relations are possible only when the countries involved relate to each other on an equal footing. They cannot be established if one country dominates the other. Within the country, the people of Lebanon seek to be democratic, where Christians and Moslems live in peaceful co-existence, unless an outside element provokes a conflict. We seek human and religious values—faith in God, justice, equality, respect for human rights.

Lebanon stands in the Middle East between Israel and Syria, and has suffered difficulties for a quarter of a century—17 years of war, thousands of victims, and terrible destruction. The Taef Agreement of 1989 was supposed to bring an end to the war. The United States was a principal sponsor. However, Taef has been implemented only partially and in a discriminatory fashion. As a result, Lebanon has yet to recover its institutional foundations. If the cannons are silent, anxiety still remains. The country suffers from a succession of crises due to the political situation in Lebanon, in which Lebanon lacks sovereignty, independence, and freedom in its decision-making.

The South of Lebanon is still in a state of instability. A large number of its citizens are either in exile, displaced or in prison, leaving their families in dire straits. The Israeli-Palestinian negotiations raise the question of the final settlement of the Palestinian refugees, who have a right to a just solution. However, no agreement should be made at the expense of the Lebanese people. Imposing on tiny Lebanon a large foreign population would have dire demographic effects, since Lebanon already has the highest population per capita in the region. It destabilizes the balance between Christians and Moslems, and even among the Moslems themselves.

It is in the interest of the United States to help Lebanon for the following reasons:

(1) Lebanon seeks to be a democratic country and to enjoy freedom.

(2) Lebanon has always had one face toward the East and the other toward the West. It possesses the culture of both East and West.

(3) The credibility of the United States requires that it help Lebanon, and to liberate it from all foreign troops, according to the Taef Agreement, sponsored by the United States.

(4) There is a large number of Lebanese immigrants in the United States who have achieved success in the higher levels of business and politics, and thereby can make an impact on the American political system.

(5) Christian influence is diminishing in the Middle East and in Lebanon which has always been a stronghold of Christianity. If there were no more Christians there, this would be a catastrophe for Christianity, but would also undermine respect for human rights.

I know that you have the same view as we, namely, that there should be no outside hegemony over Lebanon, even after the departure of non-Lebanese troops. Lebanon should remain an oasis of democracy, freedom, human values, and respect for human rights. Again, thank you for your welcome and support. May God bless you in your important work.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BARBARA YOUNG

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Barbara Young for her exceptional contributions to health care and education for the people of New York. For over 30 years, she has been contributing to the education and health care industry.

Mrs. Young received a Bachelors degree in Community Health from Jersey State College; received her Masters from Hunter College City University of New York; and acquired her Nursing Home Administrator's license from Hofstra University.

During her professional career, Ms. Young, moved up from Staff Nurse in Neonatal Intensive Care to Vice President of Nursing. Ms. Young, has gone out of her way to help people and be particularly supportive to young minority men whom she feels, need someone to stand up for them and be supportive. She has devoted most of her professional career to care of the elderly and takes pride in promoting and maintaining quality of life.

Ms. Young's contributions to the community include being a Cub Scout leader, Girl Scout Leader, teaching religious instruction to mentally challenged children, providing volunteer services at homeless shelters, and making visits to a home for battered women.

In addition to Mrs. Young's volunteer work, she is a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association and has been Chairperson of the Education Committee whose objective is to provide seminars and health education to health care professionals, and give scholarships to nursing students. She is Vice President of the Imani Reading Group, which started off with a group of professional women

who wanted to know more about their African heritage. Currently, she is organizing the reading group to start a prison ministry at the Rikers Island Women's Prison.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Barbara Young for her hard work and dedication on behalf of the sick and underprivileged, and for her extraordinary contribution in the field of education and health care.

#### SENIOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation with Messrs. TIERNEY, MCGOVERN, CAPUANO and MARKEY to allow the exclusion from gross income of stipends received by persons over the age of 60 for volunteer services performed under a qualified State program.

The Elder Services Corps in the State of Massachusetts was created in 1973. It is composed of individuals at least 60 years of age and allows volunteers to assist in meeting the needs of the elderly population of the Commonwealth. Individuals enroll for one year at a time, and are required to volunteer 18 hours per week or 72 hours per month, and receive a stipend of \$130 a month. The program is 100 percent State funded.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason why the modest income received for this volunteer service should be subject to tax, especially employment taxes. I hope Congress will act on this legislation this year, and provide an additional incentive for an expansion of this program in Massachusetts, and its adoption by other States.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE'S NEW HOME

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 7, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the March 12, 2001 Grand Opening of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre's new 600-seat proscenium theater. The festivities will also include a performance of *The Oresteia*, running from March 13, 2001 until May 6, 2001, and an open house honoring the longstanding relationship between the theater and the larger community.

The Berkeley Repertory Theatre has a long history of excellence. It was founded in 1968 as the East Bay's first resident professional theater. In 1980 Berkeley Rep gathered enough public support to move from its converted storefront theater to its current location in downtown Berkeley. The Theater was awarded a Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater in 1997. In October of 1998 the group announced its plans to construct a new